

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 226

Honoring the life and legacy of Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette, Sr.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. OBEY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. KIND, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and legacy of Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette, Sr.

Whereas Robert Marion La Follette, Sr., commonly known as “Fighting Bob” La Follette, was born on June 14, 1855, in Primrose, Wisconsin;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette served 3 terms in the United States House of Representatives, 4 terms in the United States Senate, and 3 terms as the Governor of Wisconsin;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette supported farmers and the working person, opposed political machines and corrupt corporations, and believed that a strong democracy requires a fair distribution of wealth and power;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette believed that government can bring about social and political progress for the greater good;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette believed in the “Wisconsin Idea” (the notion that the government should collaborate with the University of Wisconsin to address serious social and economic problems), and in a government infused with the talent of trained professionals, guided by the expertise of wise scholars, and answerable to an active and well-educated citizenry;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette applied the “Wisconsin Idea” to bring about major reforms in banking and railroad regulation, the environment, transportation, civil service, and taxation;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette promoted populist issues, such as public disclosure of campaign contributions, equitable graduated taxes, and direct primary elections, and encouraged the establishment of both the Department of Labor and the Federal Trade Commission;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette sought to rid government of corruption at all levels and spearheaded a major investigation into the infamous Teapot Dome scandal;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette, with his wife Belle Case La Follette, whom he regarded as an equal partner in life, supported women’s suffrage and advocated civil rights legislation for ethnic and racial minorities;

Whereas “Fighting Bob” La Follette, as an important leader in the Progressive movement, brought about a truer democracy; and

Whereas the year 2005 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of “Fighting Bob” La Follette: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
- 2 the life and legacy of Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette,
- 3 Sr.

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